

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action and Applicants' Response

Claims 1, 8, 46-67, 69-76, 78, and 80-123 were pending in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner has found that there are allegedly three distinct inventions claimed in this patent application and has required restriction to one of those inventions. In particular, the Examiner has required restriction to one of the following three claim groups:

- I. Claims 1 and 8, "drawn to a method for billing a buyer for telecommunication service provided by a first provider of a plurality of telecommunication providers" (Office Action, p. 2).
- II. Claims 46-67, 69-71, 82-103, 118-121, and 123, "drawn to a method for creating/conducting a bidding process among telecommunication providers in which a moderating computer collects bids from at least two telecommunication providers" (Office Action, p. 2).
- III. Claims 72-76,¹ 78, 80-81, 104-117, and 122, "drawn to a bidding moderator for enabling designation of at least one provider of a plurality of telecommunication providers for the provision of telecommunication service" (Office Action, p. 2).

Accordingly, applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the claims of Group II (claims 46-67, 69-71, 82-103, 118-121, and 123). An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Authorization

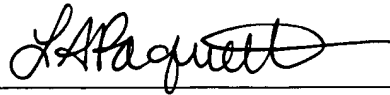
The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this Reply, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

¹ The Examiner has listed claim 77 as part of Group III. However, claim 77 has been previously cancelled by applicants.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Director is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,
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